



We hereby claim the benefit under Title 35, United States Code, §120 of any United States Application(s), or §365(c) of any PCT International Application designating the United States, listed below, and insofar as the subject matter of each of the claims of this Application is not disclosed in the prior United States or PCT Application in the manner provided by the first paragraph of Title 35, United States Code, §112, we acknowledge the duty to disclose information which is material to patentability as defined in Title 37, Code of Federal Regulations,

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§1.56 which occurred between the filing date of the prior application and the national or PCT international filing date of this application.

PCT (EP) Application No. PCT/EP03/05048 Filed May 14, 2003

We hereby declare that all statements made herein of our own knowledge are true and that all statements made on information and belief are believed to be true; and further that these statements were made with the knowledge that willful false statements and the like so made are punishable by fine or imprisonment, or both, under Section 1001 of Title 18 of the United States Code and that such willful false statements may jeopardize the validity of the application or any patent issued thereon.

We hereby appoint Wesley W. Whitmyer, Jr., Registration No. 33,558, of ST.ONGE STEWARD JOHNSTON & REENS LLC; 986 Bedford Street; Stamford, Connecticut 06905-5619 (203 324-6155); with full power of substitution, association and revocation, as attorney to prosecute this application and to transact all business in the Patent and Trademark Office connected therewith.

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